

Appendix 2 (as supplied by the authors): CCHS 18-item Household Food Security Survey Module Questionnaire¹

The following questions are about the food situation for your household in the past 12 months.

Q1. Which of the following statements best describes the food eaten in your household in the past 12 months, that is, since [current month] of last year?

1. You and other household members always had enough of the kinds of foods you wanted to eat.
 2. You and other household members had enough to eat, but not always the kinds of food you wanted.
 3. Sometimes you and other household members did not have enough to eat.
 4. Often you and other household members didn't have enough to eat.
- Don't know / refuse to answer (Go to end of module)

Question Q1 is not used directly in determining household food security status.

STAGE 1 Questions 2 - 6 — ask all households

Now I'm going to read you several statements that may be used to describe the food situation for a household. Please tell me if the statement was often true, sometimes true, or never true for you and other household members in the past 12 months.

Q2. The first statement is: you and other household members worried that food would run out before you got money to buy more. Was that often true, sometimes true, or never true in the past 12 months?

1. Often true
 2. Sometimes true
 3. Never true
- Don't know / refuse to answer

Q3. The food that you and other household members bought just didn't last, and there wasn't any money to get more. Was that often true, sometimes true, or never true in the past 12 months?

1. Often true
 2. Sometimes true
 3. Never true
- Don't know / refuse to answer

Q4. You and other household members couldn't afford to eat balanced meals. In the past 12 months was that often true, sometimes true, or never true?

1. Often true

2. Sometimes true
 3. Never true
- Don't know / refuse to answer

IF CHILDREN UNDER 18 IN HOUSEHOLD, ASK Q5 AND Q6; OTHERWISE, SKIP TO FIRST LEVEL SCREEN

Now I'm going to read a few statements that may describe the food situation for households with children.

Q5. You or other adults in your household relied on only a few kinds of low-cost food to feed the child(ren) because you were running out of money to buy food. Was that often true, sometimes true, or never true in the past 12 months?

1. Often true
 2. Sometimes true
 3. Never true
- Don't know / refuse to answer

Q6. You or other adults in your household couldn't feed the child(ren) a balanced meal, because you couldn't afford it. Was that often true, sometimes true, or never true in the past 12 months?

1. Often true
 2. Sometimes true
 3. Never true
- Don't know / refuse to answer

FIRST LEVEL SCREEN (screener for Stage 2): If AFFIRMATIVE RESPONSE to ANY ONE of Q2-Q6 (i.e., "often true" or "sometimes true") OR response [3] or [4] to Q1, then continue to STAGE 2; otherwise, skip to end.

Questions 7 - 11 — ask households passing the First Level Screen

IF CHILDREN UNDER 18 IN HOUSEHOLD, ASK Q7; OTHERWISE SKIP TO Q8

Q7. The child(ren) were not eating enough because you and other adult members of the household just couldn't afford enough food. Was that often, sometimes or never true in the past 12 months?

1. Often true
 2. Sometimes true
 3. Never true
- Don't know / refuse to answer

The following few questions are about the food situation in the past 12 months for you or any other adults in your household.

Q8. In the past 12 months, since last [current month] did you or other adults in your household ever cut the size of your meals or skip meals because there wasn't enough money for food?

1. Yes
 2. No (Go to Q9)
- Don't know / refuse to answer

Q8b. How often did this happen?

1. Almost every month
 2. Some months but not every month
 3. Only 1 or 2 months
- Don't know / refuse to answer

Q9. In the past 12 months, did you (personally) ever eat less than you felt you should because there wasn't enough money to buy food?

1. Yes
 2. No
- Don't know / refuse to answer

Q10. In the past 12 months, were you (personally) ever hungry but didn't eat because you couldn't afford enough food?

1. Yes
 2. No
- Don't know / refuse to answer

Q11. In the past 12 months, did you (personally) lose weight because you didn't have enough money for food?

1. Yes
 2. No
- Don't know / refuse to answer

SECOND LEVEL SCREEN (screener for Stage 3): If AFFIRMATIVE RESPONSE to ANY ONE of Q7-Q11, then continue to STAGE

Questions 12 - 16 — ask households passing the Second Level Screen

Q12. In the past 12 months, did you or other adults in your household ever not eat for a whole day because there wasn't enough money for food?

1. Yes
 2. No (IF CHILDREN UNDER 18 IN HOUSEHOLD, ASK Q13; OTHERWISE SKIP TO END)
- Don't know / refuse to answer

Q12b. How often did this happen?

1. Almost every month
 2. Some months but not every month
 3. Only 1 or 2 months
- Don't know / refuse to answer

IF CHILDREN UNDER 18 IN HOUSEHOLD, ASK Q13-16; OTHERWISE SKIP TO END

Now, a few questions on the food experiences for children in your household.

Q13. In the past 12 months, did you or other adults in your household ever cut the size of any of the children's meals because there wasn't enough money for food?

1. Yes
 2. No
- Don't know / refuse to answer

Q14. In the past 12 months, did any of the children ever skip meals because there wasn't enough money for food?

1. Yes
 2. No
- Don't know / refuse to answer

Q14b. How often did this happen?

1. Almost every month
2. Some months but not every month

3. Only 1 or 2 months

- Don't know / refuse to answer

Q15. In the past 12 months, were any of the children ever hungry but you just couldn't afford more food?

1. Yes

2. No

- Don't know / refuse to answer

Q16. In the past 12 months, did any of the children ever not eat for a whole day because there wasn't enough money for food?

1. Yes

2. No

- Don't know / refuse to answer

End of module

Reference

1. Health Canada. Canadian Community Health Survey, Cycle 2.2, Nutrition (2004) - Income-Related Household Food Security in Canada. Ottawa, ON: Office of Nutrition Policy and Promotion, Health Products and Food Branch, Health Canada; 2007. Report No.: 4696.